

I. Introduction

Claims 15-20 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has rejected claims 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness and under 35 U.S.C. 103 for obviousness. Applicant has amended claim 15 as set forth above in the section titled "Claims" to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Accordingly, Applicant has traversed the Examiner's bases for the indefiniteness rejection and respectfully requests that it be withdrawn.

Applicant will now address the Examiner's bases for rejecting claims 15-20 for obviousness.

II. Claims 15-20 Are Not Obvious

The Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103 for obviousness based on U.S. Patent No. 6,371,055 to Lawrence ("Lawrence") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,269,150 to McCarthy ("McCarthy") and U.S. Patent No. 5,709,172 to Maglich ("Maglich"). The Examiner rejected claims 16-20 for obviousness based on Lawrence in view of McCarthy and Maglich and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,715,449 to Jordan ("Jordan"). Applicant will now demonstrate that claims 15-20, as amended, are allowable in view of Lawrence, McCarthy, Maglich, and/or Jordan taken alone or in combination.

As stated, claims 15-20 are pending in the present application. Of these claims, claim 15 is an independent claim and claims 16-20 depend from claim 15. As such, claims 16-20 add further features to claim 15.

Claim 15 has been rejected based on Lawrence in view of McCarthy and Maglich. In the Examiner's description of the teachings of the primary reference Lawrence, it is acknowledged that Lawrence does not teach "the whole shape of the body being triangular and wherein the leash includes a slidable connector slidably mounted about the straps so as to be capable of moving along the strap, the slidable connector being adapted to engage with the container connector to allow the leash to be attached about a fixed object without the container or handle being attached to the leash." (Office Action, page 3) The Examiner has cited Maglich for allegedly teaching this deficiency of Lawrence. Specifically, the Examiner states that "Maglich teaches in the same field of endeavor of a leash as Lawrence in which Maglich employs a leash 10 that includes a slidable

connector 16 slidably mounted about the straps so as to be capable of moving along the strap, the slidable connector being adapted to engage with the container connector to allow the leash to be attached about a fixed object without the container or handle being attached to the leash." (Office Action, pages 3-4) Applicant submits that the combination of Lawrence and Maglich according to the Examiner's obviousness rejection is improper and does not teach, suggest, or render obvious the invention of Claim 15.

Maglich shows a dog leash that does include slide ring 16 and clip 14. However, the clip is connected to the leash along the length of the leash where the handhold/handle of the leash connects to the elongated portion of the leash. The handhold/handle of the Maglich leash is formed integral with and not detachable from the elongated portion of the leash. Therefore, to the extent that clip 14 may be connected to slide ring 16, the handhold/handle remains connected and is not detachable. Further, if the features of Maglich were incorporated in Lawrence, the resulting leash would have either two handholds/handles or two connectors at the second end of the elongated portion of the leash. Accordingly, the combination that the Examiner recites does not teach, suggest, or render obvious the invention of amended claim 15.

Applicant has reviewed McCarthy and Jordan, and neither of these references provides any teaching to overcome the deficiencies of Lawrence and Maglich. Therefore, Lawrence, McCarthy, Maglich, and/or Jordan taken alone or in combination do not render obvious the invention of claim 15.

Claims 16-20 depend from claim 15 and add features to claim 15. Therefore, if Lawrence, McCarthy, Maglich, and Jordan taken alone or in combination do not render claim 15 obvious, any combination of these references also would not render dependent claims 16-20 obvious.

Noting the above, Applicant has traversed the Examiner's obviousness rejections asserted against claims 15-20 based on the primary reference Lawrence and the supplementary references McCarthy, Maglich, and Jordan. Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejections based on these four references be withdrawn. As such, pending claims 15-20 are in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

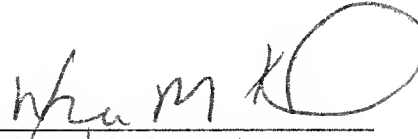
The Examiner has rejected claims 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness and under 35 U.S.C. 103 for obviousness. Herein, Applicant has amended Claims 15-20, to better describe the present invention. As such, Applicant has traversed each of the rejections the Examiner has raised with regard to claims 15-20 and placed the present application in condition for allowance.

The present invention is new, not obvious, and useful. Reconsideration and allow the claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fees associated with a three-month extension of time associated with this Response to Deposit Account No. 08-0219, under Order No. 0289917.00124US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw. Applicant believes no other fee is due with this Response; however, if any additional fees are due please charge same to Deposit Account No. 08-02219.

Respectfully submitted,

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